

West Hartford Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Monday, November 10, 2014
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217

In attendance: Mary Silverberg, Jon Slifka, Nancy Marchetti, Joshua Rucker, Melinda Montovani, David Siegel, Deputy Mayor Shari Cantor, Community Services Director Mark McGovern,

1. Call meeting to order. Review agenda and minutes
2. Guest speaker, Mark McGovern, Director of Community Development Services.
Complete streets policy planning.
 - a. Design streets to be accessible for all
 - b. Obtaining public input
 - c. Draft will be up on website for town residents to give feedback
 - d. Looking at all rights of ways
 - e. Things to consider. Some streets are town owned and some are state owned so that influences whether town can implement change

Discussed some issues:

- Curb ramps-issue of water freezing
- Surface on curb ramps can catch the wheel on a wheel chair if turned a certain way.
- Some issues with placement of curb ramps- ideally have 2 –one in each direction rather than 1 that is situated diagonally that propels person straight into intersection
- Some issues flaw in design some flaw in construction

Question: How funded? Capital improvement plan through budget. Finite amount that can be spent on an annual basis so choices need to be made in determining what projects can be followed up on. Demand, usage and cost all go into determining feasibility of a project.

- In West Hartford, we have funding to pave 6-10 miles of pavement per year and there are 217 miles of roads.
- Quality of roads are rated each year.

- Work plans are coordinated with Utilities so roads are not paved that are scheduled to be torn up for repair work.
- Moving forward we will see fewer bump outs
- We will try stamped asphalt to improve surfaces
- Bike lanes- if road is sufficiently wide, can consider adding a bike lane however town will not be widening all the roads-too expensive
- Can increase signage and make use of grid structure to change routes and improve flow. Grid structure of roads allows for educating pedestrian on best routes.

Question: How to report concerns?

Contact Mark McGovern and he will contact engineers.

Mark.McGovern@westhartford.org or 860-561-7535

3. Old business/New business

ADA Coalition of CT annual conference: Joshua Rucker, Mary Silverberg and Susan Huleatt in attendance. Informative. DAS Commissioner Donald Defronzo spoke in regard to ADA improvements throughout the state. He is the ADA coordinator for the state and is looking to identify ADA coordinators in each town and to clarify roles and grievance procedures.

There are 2 vacancies on WH Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

An individual can serve 2 terms (each term is 3 years).

Mary Silverberg's term is coming to an end. She asked for people interested in chairing to speak with her.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 3, 2015 at 7 pm in Room 217 WH Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Montovani